

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

Printing error  
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Due to an error at Cain Lithographers, the contract printer for The Baptist Record, a number of subscribers received copies of the August 12 issue with some pages duplicated and other pages missing. The error has been corrected. The staff of The Baptist Record apologizes for the error. To report problems with printing or delivery, please call (601) 292-3375 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 375. E-mail: ejones@mbcb.org.

## Taxpayers promoting mosques, Islam

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — American taxpayer money is being used to build mosques and otherwise promote Islam, according to a conservative watchdog group, a Washington newspaper, and a Middle East commentator.

The American Center for Law and Justice has called on the U.S. State Department to remove Feisal Abdul Rauf, the imam behind the proposed mosque near Ground Zero in New York, from a taxpayer-funded trip to the Middle East to discuss Muslim life in America and religious tolerance.

"This shows a tremendous lack of judgment on behalf of the State Department and for the American taxpayers to be funding this global journey is not only wrong, but deeply offensive," Jay Sekulow, ACLJ's chief counsel, said Aug. 10. "We demand that the State Department put a halt to the imam's participation in this publicly-funded trip."

Rauf has refused to declare Hamas a terrorist organization, the ACLJ news release said, and in the days following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Rauf said U.S. foreign policy could be considered an "accessory" to the tragedy.

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Rauf will travel to Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates in an effort sponsored by the U.S. government's Bureau of International Information Programs.

"We have about 1,200 of these kinds of programs every year, sending experts on

all fields overseas," Crowley said at a press briefing Aug. 10. "Last year we had 52 trips that were specifically focused on promoting religious tolerance."

Crowley said this will be Rauf's third trip under the program. In 2007, during the Bush administration, he visited Bahrain, Morocco, the UAE and Qatar, and in January he visited Egypt. The State Department's discussions with Rauf about the latest trip preceded the current debate surrounding the Ground Zero mosque, Crowley said.

Rauf is a chief fundraiser for the mosque, and critics of his presence on the trip have speculated that the taxpayer-funded goodwill mission could help him build contacts in the oil-rich nations.

"Does the State Department have any idea they are sending a guy to the Middle East who is going to be fundraising perhaps among the very same people he will be meeting with?" said Debra Burlingame, whose brother was the pilot of the hijacked plane that crashed into the Pentagon.

The Washington Times published an editorial Aug. 10 saying Rauf's trip could be "simply a taxpayer-funded fundraising jaunt to underwrite his reviled project."

Though the State Department considers Rauf a "distinguished Muslim cleric," The Times said "surely the government could find another such figure in the United States who is not seeking millions of dollars to fund a construction project that has so strongly divided America."

The State Department is creating the

appearance that the U.S. government is facilitating the construction of the Ground Zero mosque, the editorial said.

"Americans also may be surprised to learn that the United States has been an active participant in mosque construction projects overseas," The Times said. "In April, U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania Alfonso E. Lenhardt helped cut the ribbon at the 12th-century Kizimkazi Mosque, which was refurbished with assistance from the United States under a program to preserve culturally significant buildings."

"The U.S. government also helped save the Amr Ebn El Aas Mosque in Cairo, which dates back to 642," the newspaper said. "The mosque's namesake was the Muslim conqueror of Christian Egypt, who built the structure on the site where he had pitched his tent before doing battle with the country's Byzantine rulers."

"For those who think the Ground Zero Mosque is an example of 'Muslim triumphalism' glorifying conquest, the Amr Ebn El Aas Mosque is an example of such a monument — and one paid for with U.S. taxpayer funds."

Daniel Pipes, a Middle East commentator, has been following the use of taxpayer dollars to rebuild or refurbish mosques since early 2004 when he noted an article by an Agence France-Presse reporter who told of finding a stone marker by the side of a road in Afghanistan that read "Matachina Mosque, rebuilt in 2002 with the assistance of the American people."

~ Continued on Page 5

## Witnessing Through Media winners

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — Churches recognized by the Department of Communications at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for outstanding efforts to Witness Through Media include (front row, from left) Allison Hartfield, Colonial Heights Church, best video program/church musical for division one, Rejoice; Ken Sims, First Church, Jackson, best video program/church musical for division two, Carols by Candlelight; Jeffrey Broome, First Church, Clinton, best video magazine for division one, SparkTV; Bryan LaGrone, First Church, Clinton, best first time entry, Speakers Tournament; Ronnie Martin, First Church, Brandon, best video program/worship service for division one, Rejoice; (back row, from left) Don Moore, First Church, Biloxi, best video program/commercial for division one, Holiday Greetings; Lynn Bullock, Park Place Church, best video program/promotional for division two, The Heuer Family; Chris Browning, Highland Church, Meridian, best video program/music video for division one, Living Christmas Tree; Steve McKay, Fairview Church, Columbus, creative use of media, Living Pictures; Damon Burgess, First Church, Jackson, best video program/music video for division two, The Price of Freedom; Gene Neal, First Church, Quitman, best video program/feature presentation for division one, Finding the Real Christmas Spirit; Harry Medders, First Church, Brandon, best video program/promotional for vision one, Faith for Dummies. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





# Land: disputed NYC mosque is too close

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — When it comes to religious freedom, people of the Muslim faith have the right to build mosques in America that are convenient to their communities under local standards, Richard Land told Warren Olney, host of Public Radio International's *To the Point* radio broadcast on Aug. 11.

Currently, the debate resides over whether or not Muslims have the right to build a mosque two blocks away from Ground Zero. The national dispute has pitted those of the Muslim faith and others sympathetic to their position against other religious and conservative groups who believe it is inappropriate to place the Islamic center so close to the former site of the World Trade Towers.

Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, said he believes building a Muslim mosque next to Ground Zero would be equivalent to building a Japanese Shinto shrine next to the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor.

"I defend the right for Muslims to have places of worship in lower Manhattan, but not at Ground Zero," Land said on the syndicated NPR program. "Polls show that 61% of people in New York don't want a mosque built there. The right to religious freedom doesn't include the right to have a religious worship place wherever you want it."

When asked if his stance was prompting expressions of

bigotry toward those of the Islamic faith, Land said the SBC has consistently defended religious freedom.

A z i z Poonawalla, author of *BeliefNet's City of Brass* blog and a Muslim, argued on the program that prejudice against Islam was behind the perspective that a Muslim worship center should not be built near Ground Zero, a bias that would not exist if it were any other religion at the center of the discussion.

In response to Poonawalla's prejudice comment, Land referenced the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. "The people who attacked the towers were not doing so in the name of another faith," Land said. "Let's deal with historical reality. These people claimed to be doing this in the name of Islam."

Land said he realizes that most of the people killed by Islamic death cults are fellow Muslims, but the idea of building a mosque that close to Ground Zero is still hurtful and painful to those who lost loved ones in the Sept. 11 attacks. Recent press reports indicate that human remains are still being found at the site where construction work has made some areas now accessible.



IN DISPUTE — The proposed mosque would be located two blocks north of Ground Zero in an old Burlington Coat Factory. (Image courtesy of Google Maps)

"There is Supreme Court precedent for his stance," Land said, pointing to the 1997 Supreme Court case, *City of Boerne v. Flores*, in favor of the Texas city's refusal to allow a Catholic church to expand its structure. "The court placed the need to preserve the historical nature of the town historic square ahead of the church's desire to build," he said.

"That was a community decision and that's where the mosque at Ground Zero comes into play," Land explained.

The New York Landmarks Commission voted unanimously (9-0) to move forward with plans to build the mosque two blocks away from Ground Zero. In an unrelated move, New York Gov. David Patterson has offered developers an alternative site in New York City to build the mosque.

Laurie Goodstein, national religion correspondent for *The New York Times* and guest on the show, said the people who support building a mosque at Ground Zero want it to be a symbolic presence, opposing radical forms of Islam.

"These are people who have spent the past 10 years since 9/11 doing everything they can to denounce violence, to show the other side of Islam, and to be bridge builders and peace makers," Goodstein said.

Opposition to the construction of mosques is not confined to New York City. Across the U.S. — from Murfreesboro, Tenn., to Temecula, Calif. — communities are dealing with the same issue. A plan to add a 63-foot minaret to a Muslim community association facility in Santa Clara, Calif., is being challenged by citizens there.

When asked about Muslims and their right to religious expression in the U.S., Land said Islamic believers have a right to have their own places of worship.

"It's not just freedom of religion for American religions; it's freedom of religion for everyone," Land said, "but I would be much happier to see a mosque in New York City built one-third or one-half of a mile away from Ground Zero as opposed to two blocks away."

## Prayer, fasting set

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — As the Southern Baptist Convention's two mission boards continue their respective searches for presidents, they are asking Southern Baptists to set aside August 28 as a day of prayer and fasting to ask God to direct the entities' paths. Officials with the International Mission Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) said they are making progress in their searches for the two men who will oversee their organizations. Each has interim presidents in place — Clyde Meador for IMB and Richard Harris for NAMB. Spokesmen for the organizations declined to pinpoint any timetable for their presidential selections but noted they are entering important phases in the process. "This is a critical moment for these two organizations," said IMB presidential search committee chairman Jimmy Pritchard. "It is a critical time for our convention as we find God's man for IMB and [the right man for] NAMB." Pritchard said there's nothing special about Aug. 28 other than it is "always a good time to ask God to speak clearly about who is His choice. The search has gone well, and we're making some good progress ... we've met with a number of quality men," added Pritchard, senior pastor of First Church of Forney, Texas, who oversees IMB's 15-member search committee. "Of course our timetable would have been to already have made that selection, but we'd rather be correct than quick." Mike Ebert, communications team leader for NAMB, added that its search committee is "getting close" and hopes to have a decision in the near future. IMB trustees will meet Sept. 14-15 in Tampa, Fla., while NAMB's next full board meeting will be Oct. 19-20 in Los Angeles. "We are excited about joining with our IMB brothers and sisters for a much needed and timely prayer emphasis," Ebert said. "There's no better way to demonstrate cooperation and partnership with IMB than to join our hearts in prayer in this way."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Twenty-three Christians are massacred in Indonesia as they fled from their village in late July and early August. Jihad fighters prepared lists of Christian leaders for "elimination" in Ambon.

### 20 years ago

Mississippians are among Baptists from six states who arrive en masse to assist Alaska Baptists over a 12-day period in constructing seven churches and conducting Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Clubs — the volunteer labor alone saving the churches more than \$150,000.

### 50 years ago

Baptist editors fear what may happen if a member of the Roman Catholic Church is elected President of the United States. At a recent meeting, editor Floyd Looney, of the *California Southern Baptist*, wrote: "There are good reasons why a Catholic should not be president."



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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VOL. 134

No. 32



YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.





## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# Behind the Mosques: the Real Scandal

The controversial proposal to build a 15-story mosque two blocks from the site of the bloody World Trade Towers attack in New York City has people stirred up, not only in New York City but around the country.

On one side our elected officials, who consider themselves an elite ruling class, have lectured us on the absolute constitutional right Americans have to worship as we please. They're right on that specific point, of course, but their intellectual arrogance and social condescension have turned off a lot of people. In addition, their harangues on the Constitution usually fail to include any mention of whether it is appropriate to build a mosque on that particular piece of property.

On the other side, families of 9/11 victims and experts on Islamic behavior have strongly opposed the construction of the mosque so close to Ground Zero, saying it is an insult to memories of their loved ones and will be understood around the Muslim world as a validation of the attack and a victory over the U.S.

They have a point, too. Islam has an established historical pattern of building on top of civilizations they have destroyed, as signs of triumphalism and subjugation. Temple Mount in Jerusalem is a good example.

If only U.S. President Barack Obama and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had the courage to do so, perhaps they could work out an exchange whereby a Christian church could be built

next to the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, toward which Muslims pray each day.

Don't hold your breath. Saudi Arabia is one of the most repressive Islamic regimes in the world, so Christians building a comparable structure in that country would be fortunate to escape with their lives. It seems Americans are the only ones who have to be considerate of other people's religious feelings.

While the New York City debate rages on, most Mississippi Baptists are probably unaware that there are currently 16 mosques in Mississippi. According to [islamicvalley.com](http://islamicvalley.com), locations include Biloxi (3), Canton, Clarksdale, Hattiesburg, Jackson (2), Mound Bayou, Quitman, Silver Creek, Starkville (2), Sumrall, and Vicksburg (2). In addition, a mosque has been proposed along Highway 51 north of the City of Madison.

The scandal is not that there is a controversial mosque proposed for New York City, or that there are 16 (soon to be 17) mosques in Mississippi. The scandal is that Christians in Mississippi — and specifically Mississippi Baptists, since we are the most expansive Christian organization in the state — are not



(Image courtesy of Google Maps)

seeking with all our hearts and souls to obey our Lord's Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:18-20.

If we were indeed as serious as we should be about helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus, there wouldn't be a need for a single mosque in New York City or this state. If we were as serious as we should be, airplanes and boats and cars and every other form of transportation would be filled to overflowing with missionaries (that would be you and me) headed across town and across the world to save the lost from eternal damnation.

If we were as serious as we should be, missions offerings like the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions, and the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions would be oversubscribed every year. If we were as serious as we should be, we would be using every legitimate tool at our disposal to fight the very real presence of Satan in the world, where he seeks whom he can devour.

It's time we got serious. The world seems very dark right now, and is much in need of the Light and Truth that is Jesus Christ. People are dying every day without that Light and Truth, and entering an eternity of misery and death. If that doesn't drive you to your knees before Almighty God, what will?

## GUEST OPINION:



### *I was hungry...*

By Carl Savell, pastor  
Westview Church, Jackson

I can never remember my Mom turning away someone who was hungry. I grew up on an 80-acre farm in the south Delta in the forties and fifties. We would have qualified for food stamps and welfare had those programs existed then. Mom would not serve a plate to a hungry person to eat outside under the trees, but at the table with us. We grew our food and there was always enough for us and anyone else who needed to eat.

Mom taught me that Jesus was serious when he said, "I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat..." (Matt. 25:42). I live in a state where families go to bed hungry every night. I know that children are the ones who suffer the most from poverty. In a landmark study produced by Mississippi Food network and Feeding America, they report that 346,000 people — including 93,690 children — receive emergency food assistance each week from a food pantry, soup kitchen, or another agency in Mississippi. Their report stated that 73% of client households are experiencing very low food security (a new

expression for hunger). Their study was from February through June 2009. Nearly 64% of the client households had a monthly household income of less than \$1,000. Eighty-seven percent of clients receiving food stamps say the food only lasts three weeks.

Our little church, Westview, located in south Jackson, began looking for meaningful ways to minister to the needs of people in our community about 10 years ago.

Ours is a community that has transitioned from large Southern Baptist churches to large African-American churches. We discovered that within a one-mile radius of our

church the median family income was extremely low, so we went to a meeting at Mississippi Food Network to learn about developing a food ministry. Little did we know that it would become a very important part of our ministry. Our pantry is open only one-half day a week, but we serve well over 500 families a year. Since the recession gripped our nation, our numbers almost doubled. Each week our director orders from the Mississippi Food Network and our check will average about \$10. The person who picks up our order fills a pickup truck with food.

I cannot help but think about what Jesus said in

Matthew 25 — "When you've done it to the least of these, you've done it to me." You never know whose eyes you are looking into when you see a hungry person. It could be Jesus!

Walker Satterwhite, who directs Mississippi Food Network, is a nephew of a very special mentor in my life, D.D. Satterwhite, who heard me speak at a speakers tournament and invited me to preach at First Baptist Church of Rolling Fork. Walker tells me that their greatest need is for more centers to distribute the food. The problem he faces is getting the food to the people who need it.

In their report, I see that there are 12 of our associations and 16 of our churches in Mississippi who receive food from Mississippi Food Network.

If you are interested in looking into this ministry need, contact me at (601) 506-7672, or write me at Westview Baptist Church, 1910 McDowell Road, Jackson MS 39204.

I will be happy to assist you in any way I can to establish a ministry in your church.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 19, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

39th Annual

## Church Library Ministry Conference

October 1-2, 2010, FBC, Natchez, Mississippi

*Covering Mississippi in Prayer*

SPECIAL GUESTS: *ROBIN CAROLL and PATTI HILL*

### CONFERENCE LEADERS

#### AND CONFERENCES

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Contact Communication  
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Email: jchen@mbcb.org

### CONFERENCE

#### FRIDAY

Registration begins: 9:00 a.m.

#### SATURDAY

Conference ends: 12:15 p.m.

### MEALS WITH

#### SPECIAL GUESTS

FRIDAY 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
Lunch with ROBIN CAROLL

FRIDAY 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
Dinner with PATTI HILL

## STATEWIDE MISSISSIPPI BIBLE STORYTELLING WORKSHOP



MISSISSIPPI  
BIBLE STORYTELLING

October 15-16, 2010

9 a.m. Friday – 3 p.m. Saturday  
Garaywa

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

To train Christian leaders to do Bible storytelling for evangelizing, planting churches, teaching, preaching. Bible stories in chronological order give a panoramic view of the Bible and an overview of basic Bible doctrine.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Pastors, church planters, mission volunteers, Bible study leaders (Sunday School, cell groups, etc.), volunteers in out-reach ministry (prisoners, internationals, deaf ministry, etc.), anyone interested in sharing God's Word orally.

Break out sessions will be offered for those who work with children and youth.

### WHAT WILL BE TAUGHT?

How to study a Bible story, how to tell a Bible story, how to preach or tell a devotion using a Bible story, how to teach a Bible story.

### WHO ARE THE WORKSHOP LEADERS?

**JACK AND DORIS DAY** – Founder and President of Bible Storytelling Project, Inc. and former Bible Storytelling Coordinator for Eastern South America with the IMB. Jack and Doris do storytelling, lead training seminars and do consulting across North America and internationally.

### WHAT IS THE COST?

\$20 for manual plus cost of lodging and meals

For registration form, schedule, lodging and meal cost: Call Paula Smith at 800-748-1651, ext. 336, or E-mail psmith@mbcb.org and visit www.mbcb.org (click "special ministries" on the left and then "literacy")

Made possible by: Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering

## 2010 Leadership Training

for adults  
who lead BIBLE DRILL

9/07/10

Brandon BC, Brandon  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

9/13/10

Lee Association Office  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Tupelo

9/16/10

FBC, Laurel  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Discipleship & Family Ministry  
601-292-3284 or  
1-800-748-1651, ext 284

## SENIOR ADULT RETREAT IV

*"Living with a Purpose"*

with Bill Patterson, Richland

Thursday, September 30  
Association Family Life Center  
Philadelphia

### BREAKOUTS

- Memories Worth Sharing  
Don Hicks, MBCB
- Joy: It's More Than a Detergent  
Farrell Blankenship, Clinton
- Winning in the 4th Quarter  
Glenn Jackson, AMD Neshoba Assn.
  - Live in the Word  
Hal Bates, Collinsville
  - Mission: Dignity  
Robin Nichols, MBCB

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
601-656-1820  
neshobabaptist@yahoo

COST: \$5

or pre-register by Sept. 23 and receive  
a nice gift bag.  
To register: 1-800-748-1651, ext. 216



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ETG RA LEXG NTCH  
CRAZ, XC XL THC KHF  
MHN CH PTHJ CRA  
CXZAL HF CRA LAEL-  
HTL, JRJUR CRA  
KECRAF RECR BNC XT  
RXL HJT BHJAF.  
EUCL HTA: LAOAT

Clue: N = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Twenty-One: Twenty-Two

## MS POSITIONS

**VALLEY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**, between Pontotoc and Tupelo, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please e-mail resume to twiggins@onecall-inc.com or mail to Tammy Bass 815 Kings Hwy, Pontotoc, MS 38863.

**THE WAY COMMUNITY CHURCH** of Winston County is seeking a Bi-vocational Pastor for a contemporary style of worship. The qualified candidate will meet the requirements of 1 Timothy 3 and 1 Peter 5. Please mail resumes to P. O. Box 1123, Louisville, Ms, 39339 or call Tim at 662-803-9574. Visit us on Facebook.

**MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST** available to work in your office or my home in the Mid Mississippi Delta. Twenty years experience in Orthopedic Surgery, Neurology, Gastroenterology, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, etc. Please call 662-335-2862 or e-mail Wcba@tccinfo.com

**TERRY'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**, 1147 Church Road, Magnolia, MS 39652 is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please contact Rev. Todd Sumrall at 601-542-1144.

## PRAISE AND CRITICISM

In June of 2010, the incredible legendary basketball coach, John Wooden, died. He was 99 years old and spent the last 39 years of his life in retirement. Is that not amazing? Many have said that he was simply the greatest athletic coach ever. They well may be right. I was listening to a man who had become very close to John Wooden. He had written about him, and for him. He was asked this question. "What may be the one thing that you will take with you through life from John Wooden's life?" He said, "Oh, there are so many things. Each day something will crop up that will remind me not only of what he said but how he lived." The interviewer asked, "Like what?" He responded, "Well, for instance he would frequently tell me do not pay attention to them when they praise you and do not pay attention to them when they criticize you." What words of advice for all of us. Praise can be so misleading — even disingenuous — while criticism can be misinformed and painfully abusive.

I know that it is almost impossible for any of us to ignore praise or criticism totally. Through the years, I have seen fine pastors and leaders rendered ineffective by both things and at times destroyed totally by either one or both. I have observed also that regardless of who we are, pastors or lay people, we tend to gravitate toward those folks who praise us highly and put total credibility in what they say and move away from and totally ignore what the critics have to say. Both directions are probably wrong. Consequently, through the years, I have tried to assign about 10% value to

those who offer praise and about 20% value to the critics.

Why do I make that difference and why do I give twice as much recognition to the critics? First, I only assign about 10% to praise because much of it is just an effort to say something nice and more often than not, it is almost thoughtless. I know that there are exceptions to that but when people walk out of a worship service, shake your hand, and say, "I enjoyed the sermon or that was a great message," more often than not it may mean nothing. On the other hand, from time to time, someone will make a significant comment not about content or delivery so much as about impact on his or her life and you realize that maybe, just maybe, God was able to use something you said or did. So hang on to the 10% evaluation.

Why do I assign 20% for the critics? Well, criticism is harder to deal with. It is easier to walk away from, more complicated to evaluate, and so it probably deserves more attention. Truthfully, the critic may see you a lot better than you see yourself. In fact, I have to remind myself pretty often that I have never seen me in a mirror. I have even seen me on a videotape, but I have never stood off and seen myself like other folks see me. I count that as a good thing. When they look at me, they may see the glitches, warts,

scars, and wrinkles. They may hear the misstatements, inflections, and the emotional tones that I did not know were there. Sometimes when our tendency is to respond to a critic with all of our defenses up and with our harshest retaliation, a gentle view might be in order. Does your life have to be molded and shaped, designed and directed by the critics? Absolutely not! That is the reason that I would only assign about 20% creditability to their remarks.

So what was it that John Wooden was telling this man when he encouraged him not to pay attention to praise or criticism? Well, I suppose that it would be up to Coach Wooden to explain, but from my perspective, several things are more important than praise or criticism.

It ought to say to us to do our job. There are benefits and blessings that come not from the praise and not in spite of the criticism but simply from a job well done. In the Christian walk, some of the greatest blessings that will ever come in your life will come because of an act of kindness expressed to someone that you have never seen before and will never see again. No one will ever know what you did. Do not tell of

the act; just let it live on its own without you having to let everyone know how wonderful you are.

Do what you do to the best of your ability with the knowledge and strength you have at the moment as unto the Lord Himself. At times praise will come when you did not do your best. Be honest enough to recognize that the praise was not praiseworthy.

Ask God to give you the wisdom and the will to respond graciously to people whether they give praise or criticism. Sometimes criticism comes from people who have no idea of what you are going through at the time.

Move forward following the Lord and seeking His divine guidance in what you do, where you go, what you say, and what you are. Have you ever seen someone stymied in life or paralyzed by proceeding forward in life because of some criticism or even some praise? It happens all too frequently and sometimes it happens and affects people for a lifetime. Keep your eyes on the Lord, your heart right before Him and toward others, and capture the goodness of this day.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24).

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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# Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

# REVIVAL

August 22 - August 25, 2010

## Schedule of Events

Sunday, Aug. 22nd 10:00 am  
Dr. Joe Foster  
Pastor, Baptist Association

Monday, Aug. 23rd 7:00 pm  
Rev. Jimmy Moore  
Senior Pastor of Jackson Heights Baptist Church

Tuesday, Aug. 24th 7:00 pm  
Rev. Futral  
Pastor of Broadview Baptist Church, Madison, Mississippi

Wednesday, Aug. 25th 8:00 pm  
Dr. Chuck Kelley  
President of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

## POCAHONTAS BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Michael R. Bird  
4200 Kickapoo Rd - Jackson, MS  
601-982-2305 pocahontasbc@bellsouth.net  
pocahontasbaptistchurch.org



**Margaret Lackey**  
Mississippi Evangelization



Margaret Lackey's scholarships helped send more than 2,000 short-term missionaries to nearly sixty nations last year. As a result, Missions are reaching unengaged people groups around the world with the Gospel.

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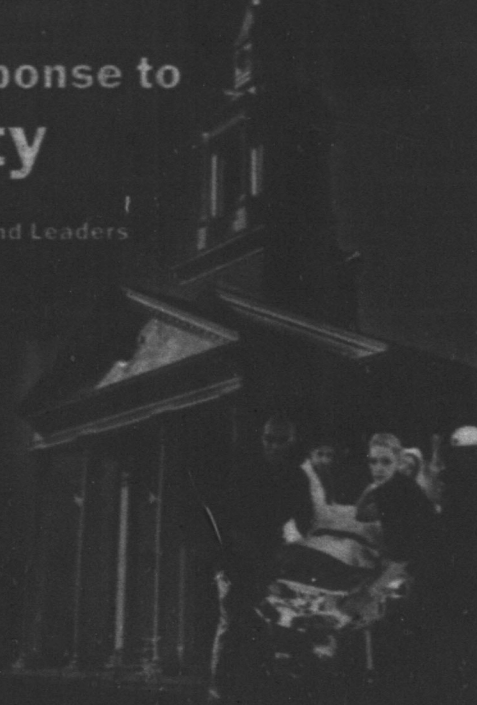
## Churches Practicing Redemption

### Developing an Effective Response to **Homosexuality**

**A Ministry Event** to Equip Pastors, Ministers, and Leaders  
with resources to address same-sex issues  
and to answer the questions:

How do we uphold Biblical Truth,  
not condone sin and effectively  
address homosexuality?

How do we speak the truth in love  
to those with opposing viewpoints?



2 Conference Locations & Dates Cost: \$10.00 (Dinner Included)

September 14, 2010 2:30 - 8:00 PM  
Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church  
4032 Poplar Springs Drive  
Meridian, MS 39305

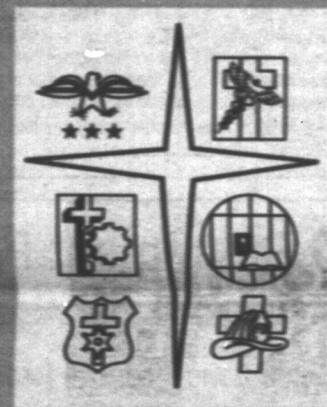
September 16, 2010 2:30 - 8:00 PM  
First Baptist Church Gulfport  
12190 Highway 605  
Gulfport, MS 39505

Register by calling 601-292-3329 or 800-748-1651 (Toll Free in MS). Deadline September 6th.



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MUSIC ODD



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CHAPLAINS'  
ASSOCIATION  
FALL TRAINING**

**FRIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 17**

*"Storytelling and  
Pastoral Care"*  
by Linda McComb

*"Boundaries in  
Chaplaincy Ministry"*  
by Jeffrey Murphy

Mississippi Baptist Convention  
Board Building  
Skyroom, 4th Floor  
Jackson, Mississippi

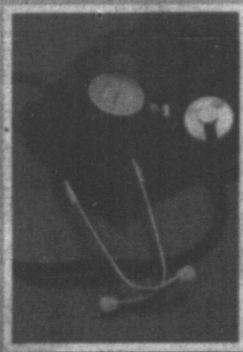
For info: Men's Ministry  
601-292-3334  
cwright@mbcb.org



## Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat & Fellowship

October 1-2, 2010  
Garaywa

Contact Mississippi WMU for more  
information at 800-748-1651, ext 323,  
or tanderson@mbcb.org.



## IN OUR SHOES:

*The Real Issues Ministers' Wives  
Face in Today's World*

### MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE

Monday, October 25, 2010, FBC Chapel, Jackson

1:15 - 4:30 p.m.



Speaker: Rachel Lovingood  
Women's Ministry trainer, LifeWay

For more info: contact  
Kay McDonnell at  
800.748.1651, ext. 305,  
601.292.3305, or E-mail  
kmcaddonell@mbcb.org



## "NEW" Pastor Workshop

August 30, 9 a.m.-noon  
Calvary BC, Starkville

Argile Smith  
Pastor, FBC, Biloxi

For pastors who are:

- "NEW" to the pastorate
- "NEW" to their church
- Looking for "NEW" ideas

THEME:

**"Strengthening  
Your Interpersonal  
Relationship Skills"**

Info: Contact Kay McDonnell at 601.292.3305 or kmcaddonell@mbcb.org

## NORTH MISSISSIPPI EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

West Heights BC, Pontotoc

September 20, 2010

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 3:00 p.m. | ERGUN CANER   |
|           | Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.                  |
| 4:00 p.m. | JAMES LEWIS   |
|           | Desoto Hills BC, Southaven, Miss.                   |
| 5:00 p.m. | SAMMY GILBREATH                                     |
|           | Evangelism Department<br>Alabama Baptist Convention |
| 6:00 p.m. | Dinner - hosted by West Heights BC<br>and MBCB      |
| 7:00 p.m. | FRED LUTER  |
|           | Franklin Avenue BC, New Orleans                     |

Music led by: BILLY NELSON

For more info, contact the Evangelism Department  
601-292-3278, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 278, or jellis@mbcb.org

## JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

Studies in  
**GALATIANS** *TRUTH*  
*Abundant*  
**GRACE**

September 20  
Blue Mountain College  
Blue Mountain, Miss.

September 21  
FBC, Cleveland  
Cleveland, Miss.

September 22  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board  
Jackson, Miss.

September 23  
William Carey University  
Hattiesburg, Miss.



Teaching:  
Alan Woodward  
Director, Pastor/Leadership  
Development Department  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

For more information contact  
Kathy Young at  
kyoung@mbcb.org or  
Lee Ann Boykin at  
lboykin@mbcb.org  
or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292,  
or 601-292-3292

All Conferences:  
Registration: 8:30 a.m.  
Conference: 9:00 a.m. - noon  
• Lunch NOT provided  
• No cost  
• Please preregister

## MBCB BIVO COUNCIL

Monday, October 25, 2010, 3 p.m.

Sky Room, 4th floor, Baptist Building

## BIVO Banquet & Dialogue

*"What's Happening in Your Life,  
Your Family and Your Church?"*

Monday, October 25, 2010, 5 p.m.  
Sky Room, 4th floor, Baptist Building

For all Mississippi  
bivocational/small church  
**MINISTERS  
AND THEIR WIVES**

We will break at 6:30 to attend the  
Pastors Conference at FBC, Jackson

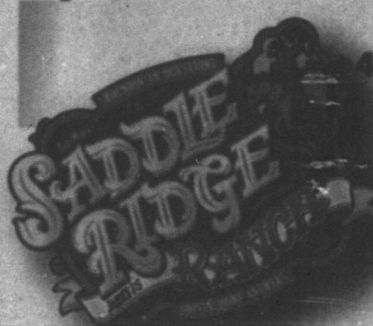
Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell  
(kmcaddonell@mbcb.org or  
601.292.3305; 1.800.748.1651, ext.  
305) to confirm your attendance.

There is no cost for the meal.  
This event is underwritten by the  
Pastor/Leadership Development  
Department of the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board.

## Special Ministries Retreat 2010

September 24-25, 2010

4 p.m. (9/24) - 1 p.m. (9/25)  
Garaywa, Clinton, Miss.



The Special Ministries Retreat  
is for exceptional persons  
(12 years and older)  
and their pastors, parents,  
teachers, and friends.

Bible study, games, singing, movies, puppets,  
talent show and fun for all participants!

Info? Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org  
or Lee Ann Boykin at lboykin@mbcb.org  
or call 1.800.748.1651, ext. 292,  
or 601.292.3292



## SEMINARY EXTENSION BREAKFAST

for Seminary Extension and Associational Missions Directors  
Tuesday, October 26, 2010, at 7 a.m. in the Baptist Building Chapel

Hosted by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!**

If you are already directing a center or if you are interested in starting a center in  
your association, please join us for a time of fellowship and sharing.



# Former SBC president Hunt to extend leave of absence

WOODSTOCK, Ga. (BP) — Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church in Woodstock, Ga., and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has extended his leave of absence from the church through mid-September, citing physical and emotional exhaustion.

Hunt had been expected to return to the Woodstock pulpit on Aug. 8 following his annual July sabbatical. However, Jim Law, senior associate pastor and administrator of the church, announced Hunt and Hunt's wife Janet will extend their leave by another six weeks.

The decision came on the counsel of a professional who encouraged the couple to extend their time away from ministerial responsibilities, Law explained.

Reading from a prepared statement, Law noted an "incredibly busy schedule for both of them, particularly the past two years serving our church family while at the same time serving our beloved denomination, they found

themselves physically and emotionally depleted."

"Our pastor and Janet, right by his side, have been consumed with their responsibilities here because of their deep love for us as well as of the Southern Baptist Convention," Law said. "In recent days, at the encouragement of several of us, they sought the counsel of a professional and they have been advised that they needed an extended break from their normal routine."

"I know of no one else on the planet who has been giving himself away to others more than pastor Johnny," Law added. "Many people face physical and emotional weariness and that is especially true of leaders and their families."

Referring to the biblical prophet



Hunt

Elijah. Law said "exhaustion" often follows mountain top experiences" and it "often follows intense periods of stress and strain, which they've been under."

Law said the church staff stands "in total support of the counsel they've received" and urged all staff and church members not to attempt to communicate with the Hunts "in any way at this time."

Law said Hunt is expected to return to the pulpit Sept. 19.

On Aug. 7, the night before his expected return, Hunt sent out a note through Twitter saying he was taking a leave of absence from Twitter and Facebook so he could spend more time with his wife.

That Tweet stated, "Must take a

break from twitter & facebook for awhile as I seek to spend quality time with my dear wife Janet of 40 years. U all r great."

Hunt was sidelined earlier this year in the middle of his second term as president of the denomination, as he underwent successful prostate surgery on Jan. 7. His presidency was consumed by the creation of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, which called for spiritual renewal and a partial restructuring of the denomination with greater emphasis on missions.

Hunt completed his two one-year terms in June at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, where the task force's report was adopted by messengers.

A native of North Carolina, Hunt has been pastor of the Woodstock church since December 1986. In the 24 years of his pastorate, membership has increased from 1,027 to more than 17,000. Current average church worship attendance is 6,800.

## Continued from Page 1

The article explained that the mosque was bombarded in the midst of the American offensive against the Taliban in November 2001, and the U.S. Army helped rebuild it.

In a post titled, "The U.S. Government Builds Mosques and Madrassahs," at danielpipes.org, Pipes chronicles other examples of taxpayer dollars being used. The article was first posted Feb. 24, 2004 and has been updated subsequently.

Among the examples Pipes provides:

- Through USAID, the United States government is providing \$157 million over a

five-year period to build schools in Indonesia, including one called Madrassah Tanjungpura, an Islamic religious school less than two hours from Jakarta, Pipes says.

It's one of more than 1,000 primary schools in seven provinces that is part of USAID's Decentralized Basic Education project. In Indonesia, madrassas follow the same national curriculum as secular schools, but also have a religious education component, USAID said in January.

- The Telegraph in London reported in May 2007 that the United States was building

madrassas in Afghanistan to persuade parents not to send their children across the border to Pakistan for instruction at hard-line religious schools.

"Work has started on two 'super-madrassas' in Paktika, which borders Pakistan, and more are planned," The Telegraph said. "The American government is also paying for the refurbishment of mosques in the area, in the hope of winning over religious leaders."

The newspaper did quote an American officer in Sharana, Afghanistan, who said, "In Afghan terms it is a madrassa, but those words have baggage and if word gets back to a Western public that we are building madrassas, that is a bad thing. It is a religious school, but it is not a religious education. The governor is trying to ensure that there is some sort of control over the curriculum, to ensure that radical Islam is not being fomented through these schools."

- The New York Times reported in January that as part of the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan, some infantry units are paying locals to rebuild infrastructure and renovate mosques.

Eight Marine-financed mosque projects were in the works in Helmand Province at the time the article was written, and dozens more were on a list of anticipated projects. "Mosques are the big thing right

now," Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Funk told The Times.

Pipes objected to taxpayer money being used in such ways. "The policy of building madrassas and refurbishing mosques in Afghanistan is madness. It is also unconstitutional," Pipes wrote. "American taxes are being used to favor, abroad, a religion, and far worse, one religion over others. Where is the constitutional challenge to this?"

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Brandon Church, Brandon:** Revival, Aug. 22 - 25; Sun., 9 and 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 - 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Bob Pitman, speaker; Randy Woods, music.
2. **Holly Grove Church, Braxton:** Homecoming, Aug. 22; singing, 10:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon, followed by cemetery association meeting.
3. **Pocahontas Church, Pocahontas:** Revival, Aug. 22 - 25; Sun., 10:30 a.m. 7 p.m. nightly; speakers, Sun., Jim Futral; Mon., Jimmy Meek; Tues., Rob Futral; Wed. Chuck Kelley; Michael Bird, pastor.
4. **Country Woods, Byram:** Revival, Aug. 29 - Sept. 1; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Sammy Nuckolls, speaker; Jim Parrish and worship ministry team, music; Jon Daniels, pastor.
5. **Hebron Church, Grenada:** Revival, Aug. 29 - Sept. 1; 7 p.m. nightly; different speaker each night; Chuck Waller, music; Greg Collins, pastor.
6. **Bethlehem Church, Ackerman:** 175th anniversary, Aug. 22, 10 a.m.; covered dish lunch and hymnal singing.
7. **Bethel Church, Hazlehurst:** Homecoming, Aug. 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Phil Mullins, speaker; Mack Massey, interim pastor.
8. **Grace United Church, Decatur:** Revival, Aug. 29 - Sept. 1; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Knox, speaker; Danny Harrison, music.
9. **Hamburg Church, Roxie:** Homecoming and revival, Aug. 29 - Sep. 3; Mike Morris, speaker; Jimmy Bilbo, music; Sounds of Joy, Sun. morning.

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Pray this day for...

August 20 - September 2, 2010

*"The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure: then peaceloving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."*

James 3:17

Continue to pray for our Gulf Coast friends as they struggle to overcome the oil crisis in the Gulf. Pray for open doors for Christians to minister to those in need on the Gulf Coast.

Pray for believers setting up training sessions with an unreached people group. Praise Him for this new work among people who have never been accessed or targeted before. Pray that the seeds planted will be harvested broadly.

Pray for: (1) Sunday School Regional Training, FBC, Laurel (SS); (2) the ministries that work with students as this new school year begins. Pray for students to see their need for Jesus Christ in their lives.

Pray for: (1) New Pastor Workshop, Calvary BC, Starkville (P/LD); (2) a team from **Gum Grove BC** in Brookhaven traveling to Brazil, Sept. 1-16, to teach classes and show the Jesus Film.

Pray for: (1) Senior Adult Regional Rally, FBC, Oxford (D&FM); (2) MBCB Executive Committee meeting, Jackson (Exec Admin); (3) MBC Board Meeting, MBCB, Jackson (Exec Admin).

HIS Story was told in several primitive villages in a country where they live in fear of the unseen world around them. They listened with great interest as they heard the story for the first time. Pray that will receive the truth in their hearts.

Pray for a team of Mississippi Baptist men traveling to Southeast Asia, Aug. 23-Sept. 3, to train national Christian leaders. Pray for the Lord to go ahead of them and prepare hearts to hear and respond to the truth of God.

BAPTIST FOUNDATION MONTH (MBF emphasis)

MARGARET LACKEY STATE MISSIONS OFFERING (WMU emphasis)

Pray for: (1) Senior Adult Regional Rally, Association Family Center, Collins (D&FM); (2) seniors to catch a vision of the incredible gifts of life experiences and wisdom they have to offer to the younger members of their churches.

Pray that the leaders of our country would seek to know and be guided by God's heart and values as they vote on legislation.

Pray for a missionary couple in Central Asia as they are having visa difficulties that are limiting their ability to live and work in their country.

Pray for leadership and direction for the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board as they seek to fill their highest position at each agency.

Pray for: (1) Kid's Ministry in Motion, Garaywa (MBCB Children's Team); (2) millions of orphans who need love, protection, education and eternal life through Jesus Christ. Many orphans are victims of the sins of others.

Pray for ongoing relief work in Haiti. Conditions are difficult and there have been problems getting aid supplies to the people who need them.

## 2010 Retirement Planning Seminars August 30 - September 2

GuideStone Financial Resources, SBC and MBCB  
For any church staff member over 50 years of age

### Monday, August 30

2:00 p.m. Jackson, Baptist Building, Sky Room 601.292.3227  
515 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, MS 39205

### Tuesday, August 31

9:00 a.m. Hattiesburg, 38th Avenue Baptist Church 601.264.3897  
419 North 38th Ave.  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

2:00 p.m. Meridian/Marion, Lauderdale 601.483.1419  
Associational Office  
5521 Clinton Street  
Marion, MS 39342

### Wednesday, September 1

9:00 a.m. New Albany, Associational Office 662.534.3940  
723 Coulter Drive  
New Albany, MS 38652

### Thursday, September 2

9:00 a.m. Grenada, North Central Association 662.226.5071  
1045 Fairfield Ave.  
Grenada, MS 38901

### LEADERS:

Don McLeod, CFP, GuideStone Financial Resources, SBC  
Robin D. Nichols, MBCB info: 601-292-3227, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 227, or  
chtaylor@mbcb.org

10-1-04

**MISS MAGGIE M.**

Parents: C & A  
Restricted

10-2-01

**MISS SHELBY COX**

Parents: Jeremy & Kimberly  
Restricted

10-3-97

**MISS KARISSA YEAGER**

Parents: Tommy & Jennifer  
Restricted

10-4-90

**MR. MICAH MCCALL**

Parents: Dennis & Margaret  
Africa

10-8-97

**MISS CATHERINE HODGINS**

Parents: Ray & Cindy  
Deaf Peoples Affinity Group

10-10-94

**MR. LUKE LITTLE**

Parents: Bob & Amy  
West Africa

10-16-89

**MISS RACHEL**

Parents: Jeff & Melva  
Restricted

10-17-00

**MISS KAYLEE**

Parents: D & D  
Restricted

10-26-06

**MISS ADDISON**

Parents: James & Tracy  
Restricted

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:  
Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB  
wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530,  
Jackson MS 39205. PLEASE NOTE:  
Church members may send a package of  
cards together; cards do not have to be  
sent individually to the wMu.

Encourage an  
MK with a card!

HOUSE TOPS



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Deal With Personal Sin

2 Samuel 11:2-5; 14-15; 12:7a, 10-14; Psalm 51:1-4

By Tony Martin

There are few passages in scripture that show any more clearly the devastating effects of personal sin. Even when sin is confessed, and even though sin is forgiven, there are still consequences of sin. God holds us accountable for sin, and our personal sins and behaviors must be dealt with. Watch as how David is caught in a downward spiral of sin, with one sin leading to another, until it results in death.

We first find David at home "in the spring, at the time when kings go off to war" (v. 1). Note that this was indicative of David being idle - idleness being the birthplace of many a sin. It must have been a hot night, because David, sleepless, leaves his bed and goes up on the roof of the palace. From that vantage point, David is able to see into

the adjacent property, and he sees a beautiful woman bathing. David could have retreated back into his own chambers and put what he has just seen behind him. Instead, he takes it to the next level, asking someone to find out just who this woman was.

After finding out this was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah, he takes it to the next level: he has Bathsheba brought to the palace, and he sleeps with her. He yields to a second temptation, continuing the downward spiral.

The consequences of this action are stark - Bathsheba gets pregnant. Now David is in a fix - his sin, committed in secret, will soon be a secret no more. He has, in effect, gotten the neighbor's wife pregnant. And in the timeless fashion of all sinners caught

in sin, he tries to cover his tracks.

David does this by having Uriah brought home from the front. David, striving to be something of a smooth operator, sends Uriah home to Bathsheba, even sending a gift behind him.

Martin

David's plan is simply for Uriah to act like a soldier on leave, enjoying his wife's company. If Bathsheba were to turn up pregnant, then it would appear to be Uriah's child.

Uriah does not cooperate. Instead, he takes the noble higher ground, refusing to leave his comrades. So David ups the ante by getting Uriah drunk the next night, thinking perhaps that Uriah wouldn't remember what he did while home. Again, David's plan fails - instead of going home, Uriah spends the night among his master's servants.

David, desperate, resorts to what he thought was the final solution to his woes - basically, he arranges to have Uriah killed. He does this by sending

word to the commanding officer, Joab, telling him to wait until the fighting was fiercest and making sure that Uriah was facing the strongest defenders. Then, at an opportune time, Joab would draw his forces back, leaving Uriah to fight virtually alone.

And David's plan seemed to work. Uriah was indeed killed. Now, with Uriah out of the way, David was free to marry Bathsheba, and she would bear his legitimate child. What could be tidier? So now, witness the progression: idleness led to lust, which led to adultery, which led to murder.

This is a familiar story. But note the consequences of David's sins.

Enter Nathan, who in the opening verses of 2 Samuel 12 sets the stage for a withering rebuke. Nathan tells the story of a rich man and a poor man, and how the rich man took the poor man's most prized pet ewe lamb - a virtual family member - and fed the lamb to a traveler. David, livid, tells Nathan that the man who did such a heinous thing

should pay for the lamb four times over, and Nathan - in what is one of the most chilling statements in all of scripture - tells David, "Thou art the man!" (v. 7, KJV).

Tellingly, David's sin is forgiven as he recognizes that his sin is against God (v. 13) and he will not die for those sins. However, there are dire consequences of David's sin - his son dies instead. Sin always culminates in death, most significantly in the death of the Son of God.

In Psalm 51, David takes full responsibility for his own sin. And no sin is beyond God's grace. When, as David, we confess our sins and turn our hearts to God, we can be confident that He is willing to forgive us and give us a new start. We may still have to live with the temporal consequences of our sin, but we can rest knowing that the penalty of sin was borne by Christ.

Scripture verses are from NIV.

Martin is the Associate Editor of The Baptist Record.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### The Long-Distance Factor

2 Corinthians 7:5-9:15

By Laura Leathers

"Reach Out. Reach Out and Touch Someone" was the tag line for AT&T's advertising campaign in 1979. Their goal: to get more people to make long distance calls. Ma Bell continues to encourage millions of people to reach out and connect through cell phones and texting. If that isn't enough you have Facebook, Twitter, Skype, or blogs. People are constantly connecting, but are they building lasting relationships?

The best way to communicate is face-to-face. What do you do when that is not possible and distance becomes a mitigating factor? Would the Apostle Paul say the best way to nurture long distance relationships in this century is to write a letter? Yes, because this is how he touched the lives of so many and his letters are still being read today.

No, because modern technology can instantly connect you with someone in another part of the world. The Gospel is literally at your fingertips; people can download or read the Bible in their language. People can offer encouragement, pray and receive prayer requests, and find ways to give, minister and serve. Whatever the answer the goal should be to find ways to bridge the gap of distance and maintain healthy relationships. A good place to start is to...

Look at Others' Example:

Be Generous - 2 Cor. 8:1-7

The focal passage for today's lesson "provides the richest, most detailed model of Christian giving in the New Testament (MacArthur Study Bible)." The Macedonia churches are the example to the Corinthian church. Their generosity was through a "great ordeal of affliction", yet they did not



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allow their circumstances to be a hindrance to their giving. Giving is motivated by the grace of God. Twice in this passage Paul refers to "this gracious work". It is what is referred to as grace giving. Words like generously, enthusiastically, voluntarily, spontaneous, and sacrificial describe grace giving. In spite of their circumstances the Macedonians gave. Notice the phrases Paul uses to describe the Macedonians: the wealth of their liberality; according to their ability; beyond their ability, and they gave of their own accord. How often do you see people "begging" us for the favor of participation in the support of the saints (vs. 4)? What an excellent example of grace giving—people begging for the opportunity to give. Giving of themselves first to the Lord and then to others. Emulate their example and be generous.

Consider Jesus' Example:

Be Loving - 2 Cor. 8:8-9

"Jesus Christ is always the preeminent example for the

believer to follow, whether in service, suffering, or sacrifice. Like Jesus Christ, the Macedonian Christians gave themselves to God and to others (vs. 5). If we give ourselves to God, we will have little problem giving our substance to God. If we give ourselves to God, we will also give of ourselves for others. It is impossible to love God and ignore the needs of your neighbor. Jesus Christ gave Himself for us (Gal. 1:4; 2:20). Should we not give ourselves to Him (Wiersbe)?" Pray for creative ways to express love and minister to others through long-distance relationships.

Establish your Example:

Be Eager - 2 Cor. 9:1-2, 7-8

Paul was calling the Corinthians back to the original plan—join the Macedonians in sending an offering to the poor saints in Jerusalem. The original zeal had stirred others to give. Therefore the ministry to the saints was to be done with readiness.

Sow and reap sparingly or sow and reap bountifully (vs. 6), this is the giving principle

a person must purpose in heart. "When a generous believer gives by faith in trust in God, with a desire to produce the greatest possible blessing, that person will receive that kind of a harvest of blessing (MacArthur Study Bible)." God loves a cheerful giver (vs. 7). This is why you must establish your own example for others to follow—give with enthusiasm.

Think About Results:

Be Optimistic - 2 Cor. 9:12-15

Giving is a privilege! Paul reminds the Corinthians of the goal: the ministry of this service was fully supplying the needs of the saints. They were the living proof given by this ministry? The greatest result—they will glorify God for your obedience (vs. 13). "Grace never looks for a reason; it only looks for an opportunity. If there is a need to be met, the grace-controlled Christian will do what he can to meet it (Wiersbe)." Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

# THE BAPTIST Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# Mississippi Baptists minister to African AIDS victims

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — Once again, Mississippi Baptists are participating in the collection of In-Home Care Kits, an initiative from Baptist Global Response (BGR). Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko is the collection point for the kits. Kits should be delivered to Central Hills by August 31.

In sub-Saharan Africa the HIV/AIDS crisis is affecting large segments of the population.

In 2008, over 1.4 million adults and children died because of AIDS, and more than 14.1 million children were estimated to have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Currently, there are over 22.4 million adults and children who are living with the HIV virus in sub-Saharan Africa.

Because of the lack of health care, the limited access to anti-retroviral drugs, and the continued increase in the spread of HIV, thousands of individuals die a very painful and horrible death each year. In addition to the HIV/AIDS crisis, thousands in sub-Saharan Africa die each year from sicknesses like cancer, tuberculosis, malaria, and other life-ending diseases. Often the only care they will receive is at home.

The BGR In-Home Care Kit is a compilation of medical and hygiene supplies that Baptist Global Response is asking churches, groups, or individuals to provide to assist caregivers of home-bound, terminally ill patients. Items in this kit will make the caregivers' tasks much easier, but more importantly will ease the suffering of the ones affected by the illness. The BGR In-Home Care Kit consists of a five-gallon, heavy duty bucket with a sealable lid. In Africa a bucket is a very valuable item that can be used to haul and store water, store food away from rodents and insects, and store other goods away from inclement

weather and environmental challenges. Inside the bucket are items that assist in keeping patients clean and dry.

There are also items to protect their mat or mattress from soiling. Medicated lip balm and lotion help treat the skin problems that those suffering from AIDS battle. Other items are included that make life easier and less painful.

The 2008 pilot phase for the In-Home Care Kit Project ended successfully with almost 1,400 kits finding their way to Zambia and South Africa. In 2009, 3,200 kits were packed and will be used in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, Lesotho and Mozambique.

This year, the goal is to provide 5,000 kits to help 5,000 families in need. Local Baptists and field partners in Africa will distribute the buckets in a way that gives dignity and hope to each family receiving a kit.

Everything needed to participate in this project can be found at [www.inhomecare-kit.org](http://www.inhomecare-kit.org), including all of the information listed in the following paragraphs. Before making purchases for the pro-

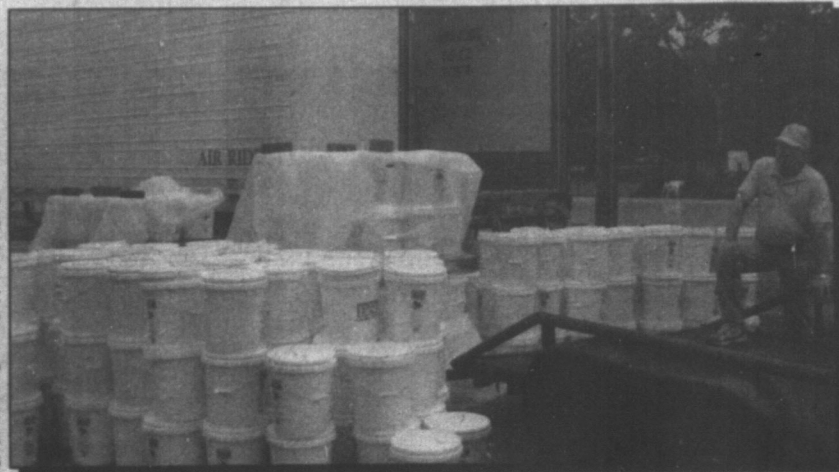
ject, make sure all of the instructions are for 2010 as contents and instructions can vary from year to year.

Following are the basics:

• **Pray:** Use the seven-day 2010 IHCK Prayer Guide to pray for and learn more about the needs of those receiving the kits. Pray for those who will participate.

• **Purchase:** Raise funds and buy the items needed for the kits. The list provided must be used to purchase materials for the kits. This document is entitled, 2010 BGR IHCK Shopping List.

• **Pack:** Completely assemble the kits and take them to Central Hills by Aug. 31. Assembly instructions are found in the document titled, 2010 Step-By-Step Guide for Assembling Your BGR In-Home Care Kit.



**BGR IN-HOME CARE** — Roger Foster, a member of Brandon Church, Brandon, overseas the loading of in-home care kits for eventual delivery to Africa in 2008. Mississippi Baptists are participating in this ministry again this year. (Photo by Tony Martin)

While the deadline to receive the kits is September 1, many will not reach their final destination until the Spring of 2011.

For more information on the

**BGR In-Home Care Kits**, call the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 292-3334 or toll free outside Jackson at (800) 748-1651. E-mail: [dvail@mbcb.org](mailto:dvail@mbcb.org).

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **Moselle Memorial Church**, Moselle, started a program at Moselle Grade School in which a new bicycle was awarded to one outstanding student at each grade level. Teachers and school staff made the selection of the winning student. The program will be repeated for the current school year.
2. The women's ministry at **Salem Heights Church**, Laurel, is hosting Beth Moore's Living Proof live simulcast Sept. 18. Call (601) 763-7571 or email [smc858@aol.com](mailto:smc858@aol.com) for information.

mation. Deadline for registration is Aug. 23.

3. **Arlington Church**, Bogue Chitto, is hosting The Eternity Trio in concert Aug. 29, 1:30 p.m.
4. **Pelahatchie Church**, Pelahatchie, is hosting Triumphant Quartet in concert Aug. 26, 7 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. A love offering will be received.
5. **Old Hebron Church**, New Hebron, is hosting Calm Assurance in concert Aug. 29, 6 p.m.

## COLLEGE NEWS

Blue Mountain College is hosting the annual Northeast Mississippi Pastors Conference Sept. 13; headliners include Chuck Kelley and Chuck Herring; registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the conference concludes at 3 p.m. Lunch is \$5. For complete information and to pre-register, contact Ronald Meeks at (662) 685-4771, ext. 179, or email [rmeeks@bmc.edu](mailto:rmeeks@bmc.edu).

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. **Faith Church, Charleston:** First Backyard Vacation Bible School with inner city children; shown are the participants.
2. **Salem Church, Carthage:** July 11 - 15; fifty-one

enrolled; average attendance, 48; \$375.81 and food collected for the Leake County Association food pantry; final night was spent at a cowboy church service at Singleton Riding Club; shown are the participants.



1. Faith Church, Charleston



2. Salem Church, Carthage

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. McDonald and McNeil



3. Purser and Holloway



4. Bethel Church, Lawrence Association



5. Mord and Edwards

1. Donna Reine, a member of First Church, Vicksburg, went to Vancouver, Canada three years ago to help start a church plant. Reine is available to speak in churches about her experiences, especially if churches are interested in partnering with Vancouver or wanting to hear about missions. She can be reached at donna.reine@gmail.com, at (769) 203-1306, or through the Missions Mobilization office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 292-3398.

2. Grace United Church, Decatur, ordained Daniel McNeil as minister of youth at the church Aug. 8. Shown are pastor Mark McDonald and McNeil.

3. Valley Park Church, Valley Park, recognized and honored Addie Mae Holloway for 59 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Shown are pastor Ronnie Purser and Holloway.

4. Bethel Church, Lawrence Association, had 11 girls participate in summer camp at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center. Shown are the participants.

5. Sturgis Church, Sturgis, ordained Shannon Edwards to the ministry Aug. 1. He is pastor of Cedar Bluff Church. Shown are pastor Russell Mord and Edwards.

6. New Home Church, Smith County, celebrated one year of use of its "note-free" education and fellowship space. Shown at the note burning are Matt Flynt, Ron Swindall, Lisa Shelby, Kristy McCord, and Doug Stringer.

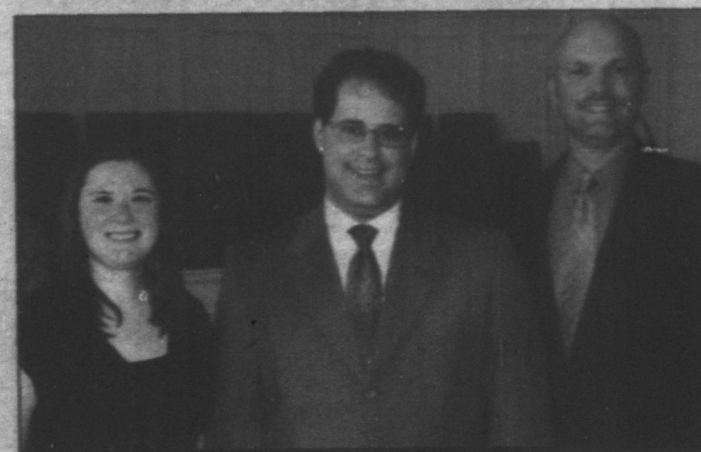
7. Calvary Church, Oak Grove, ordained Lynn Wallace to the ministry Aug. 1. He is pastor at McCool Church. Shown are his wife Liz, Wallace, and pastor Jeff Floyd.

8. Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County, sent 18 members on a mission trip to Long Beach July 18 - 24. The group worked on three different projects across the gulf coast. Shown are the participants.

9. Central Church, Brookhaven, held a groundbreaking and dedication service Aug. 1 for their new church campus. Shown are ADM Randy Lewman, Landon Lambert, Randy Carruth, pastor Ryan Thurman, Glenn Cliburn, Ken Berry, Janet Smith, Wayne Cole, David Dunn, and Gary Myers.



6. New Home Church, Smith County



7. Wallace ordination



8. Corinth Church, Tallahatchie County



9. Central Church, Brookhaven